286 practised today by the shepherd girls of the country.
531 Crocheted lace is in general rarer; nevertheless among prosperous farmers we often find decorative crocheting and openwork on beautiful and valuable bed linen.

[291] Gloves and stockings are firmly and closely knitted in several colors, the various threads being carried along on the reverse side. They frequently make their way to Germany, where they appear on the handicraft market as "Swedish" gloves. The most varied-colored ornaments are knitted in, dots and stars, together with flower patterns, and occasionally also animal patterns.
[431] These gay and strong gloves with their bright colors often serve as gifts, and the priest is always presented with them on his winter "calender journeys." In contrast /143/ to other handicrafts, in which, as we saw, old patterns are frequently used in a not so successful manner, their borrowing from the weaving technique in the modern knitted handiwork has an organic and altogether charming effect.

[292] In the Lithuanian folk costume, too, particularly as it has been awakened to new life after the first World War, art and taste are shown: the long colored pleated coat, the colorful bodice, the white shirt with the long embroidered sleeves--everything breathes cheerfulness and joy in colors (see the title picture).*

Therewith is closed the circle which embraces the Lithuanian folk art in all its branches. Many things could be only briefly touched, since the various older and more recent techniques of knotting, crocheting, and knitting can be described only with difficulty.

286 The whole realm of weaving with all its re-
462 lated techniques is exclusively the domain of the woman, while the man has chosen for himself those areas which above all demanded bodily strength or because of the size of the objects did not attract

* [Title picture was not included in HRAF reproduction -- Analyst]

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292 The national costume, though little worn on ordinary occasions, is much in evidence on holidays and on festive occasions, particularly among the women.

342 241 Since the redistribution of the communal lands, the farms have all been scattered over the vast plain, at some distance from one another. Most of the buildings are of wood, as timber costs far less than masonry; the roofs are generally of thatch or wood, though quite often of iron or tiled. Most of the houses are fairly roomy, and even small peasant farmers have three or four rooms. The Lithuanian peasant does not live in a house under the same roof as the stables or other farm buildings, as is so often the case in Western and Southern Europe; he regards such an arrangement as inconvenient and unhealthy. There is generally a little orchard and vegetable garden near the house. The Lithuanian peasants do not plant orchards for commercial purposes; they grow fruit for their own requirements and very few of them sell their fruit on the home markets or for export.

184 The country being comparatively small in area, no great differences are noticeable between the types of farm or the peasants in different regions. Of recent years, the various means of communication, particularly motor-bus services, have improved, and this tends very largely to eliminate such differences as did exist between the various regions. Practically all the peasantry is Roman Catholic. Though dialects exist, peasants [212] from all parts of the country understand one another. For some years now, over half of them have been able to read the newspapers and to become familiar with the literary language; farming papers alone have a circulation of over 150,000, though the total number of farms does not exceed 290,000. From the point of view of nationality also, the Lithuanian peasantry constitutes a homogeneous mass. Lithuania does possess national minorities (about 18% of the population) but these consist mainly of urban dwellers, whereas the rural districts are populated almost exclusively by persons of Lithuanian race.

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000 The Lithuanians have full confidence in the future. Always supposing that no restrictions are placed on their activities and that their territory is not once again turned into a battlefield, the exploitation of the natural riches of the country should proceed rapidly and on a comprehensive scale, while the living conditions of the rural population will improve correspondingly. This confidence in the future is justified by the very considerable progress already achieved during the brief period since Lithuania recovered her independence, progress which is explained by the attachment of country dwellers to the land and by their hard-working, intelligent and long-suffering character, and, lastly,